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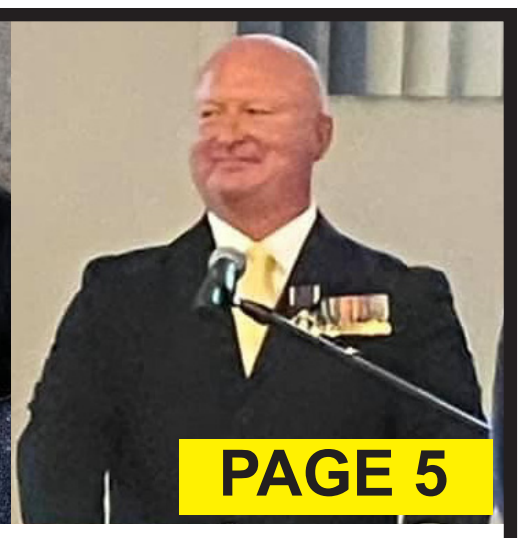
Local Vets Get Purple Heart



Haverhill's Donald Jarvis and Dracut's Dan Cotnoir both received a Purple Heart last month, years after their heroic actions in battle in Iraq and Afghanistan.

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Valley Patriot of the Month

Dave Pelletier; A Soldier and His Dog in Vietnam!

John Cuddy
VALLEY PATRIOT HERO REPORTER

US Army Veteran Dave Pelletier is from Salem, New Hampshire, and is now living in Haverhill, Massachusetts. After Dave withdrew from Woodbury High and served a short sentence in a reform school in Manchester, he started working at Superior Shoe. While at Superior, he enlisted in the US Army. Dave was trained as an infantryman and scout dog handler at Fort Dix, New Jersey and Fort Benning, Georgia. Dave served eight years in the US Army, with tours in Vietnam, Germany, and Korea.

Landing in Vietnam in 1966, he served as an infantryman with the 25th, known as "Tropic Lightning". The 25th Infantry Division had its headquarters at Củ Chi Base Camp, near the Iron Triangle, from January 1966 until February 1970. Dave was assigned to the 40th Scout Dog Platoon, patrolling the area around Plei Ku with his dog, Lochunivar.

While serving with Company A, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, 25th Division, under the leadership of Captain Emil Gregg, Private (later Staff Sgt.) Dave Pelletier, and his dog, found a submerged Vietcong bridge across the Suoi Ba Tu tributary during a search and clear mission. The action is described in an article by Lt. Frank Lawson for the October 28, 1967, issue of 25th Division Newsletter. US Army leadership was stumped as to how the Vietcong were moving so easily during monsoon season. Following ox cart tracks, on a hunch, the soldiers found a submerged, 36" wide bridge, roughly 20" below the water line, which allowed the enemy to cross the river quickly, with their full load of combat equipment.

During lunch with David, he vividly portrayed what it was like patrolling the jungle in Vietnam with his dog, often having to carry as many as six full canteens of water due to the heat and length of the patrols. Before a patrol, he would load his M16 with all tracers to effectively control his fire during combat missions. He talked about search and destroy patrols which often resulted in killing or capturing Vietcong and their supplies. He and his dog were assigned to go out on ambush style patrols, meant to engage and destroy the enemy. On one of these patrols, Dave was wounded, and received the Purple Heart. Dave also earned the Combat Infantry Badge during his tour in Vietnam.

One of the lighter stories he shared, Dave and his platoon members used to have a competition at night when back at base camp. The men would turn on the lights in the middle of the night and take turns shooting Cobra snakes as they were slithering around their cots. The soldiers felt it was better and safer than having a snake take a bite out of you!

HERO: PAGE 14

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Abandoning Americans Behind Enemy Lines

We agree with both Presidents Donald Trump and Joe Biden, that it was time to withdraw our troops and end the occupation of Afghanistan.

We should have left 18 years ago when those who participated in the 9/11 attacks were either killed or neutralized.

What we do not agree with, is President Biden's cowardice when he withdrew our military on the Taliban's timeline, and before every American was home safe, especially when he promised those trapped Americans that he would not leave without them.

In short, Biden kept his promise to the terrorist Taliban and broke his promise to the American people. That decision and the ramifications of that decision are squarely on President Biden.

As a result, days before the military was finished their withdrawal, the Taliban had already taken over the entire country, controlled all access roads, controlled access to water, electricity, and yes, the Kabul Airport. They also allowed the slaughter of 13 American soldiers.

Yet, Biden blamed Donald Trump.

He blamed the Afghan forces who fled.

He blamed Americans who were unable to get out because the terrorists blocked their exit.

Everyone but himself.

We find it downright treasonous to abandon Americans behind enemy lines under any circumstances. Period.

Just imagine trying to get to the Kabul airport only to see the last plane leaving without you - all the while terrorists are hunting you like dogs to torture and kill you. Imagine the feeling of knowing nobody is coming to save you - that your president doesn't care about your life.

The absolute worst part of all this is that nobody is being held accountable for those purposely left behind in a terror-controlled country. Nobody is going back in to get them. Nobody is being held accountable for the billions wasted. Nobody is being held accountable for the thousands of needless deaths. Nobody is being held accountable for the decision to leave billions in top secret military weapons for the terrorists to use against us in the future - or commit terror against their own citizens. Nobody is being held accountable for the 18 years of lies that led to all of this.

There is nothing right about any of this.

What we now know is that the American backed Afghan government was a sham all along.

Also, a sham was the Afghan army, whose soldiers we paid better than our own, only to watch them run away when we stopped paying them.

(Who couldn't see that one coming?)

Certainly, our intelligence community was a sham for 18 years, as every single thing they said was a lie.

But the biggest sham of all was the dog and pony show our military leaders and politicians put on successfully for 18 years with the media's complicity.

Saddest of all, brave Americans like Johanny Pichardo - and all the other troops who died in Afghanistan - paid for these lies with their very lives.

All of this was avoidable.

All of it.

The American people cannot let any of this stand.

Otherwise, we will all remember August 31, 2021 as the day America stopped being America. ◊

Sounding the Alarm for Combined Sewer Overflows

Linda Dean Campbell
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

This summer, our Commonwealth experienced the rainiest July on record in at least a century. The climate report recently released by the United Nations predicts that average precipitation in our region will continue to increase as climate change worsens. In the Merrimack Valley, we know all too well what more intense rainfall means – more sewage spilling into our river through combined sewer overflows (CSOs).

The legislation I sponsored requiring timely public alerts when there is a CSO was signed into law at the beginning of this year, a major victory for the health of the Merrimack River and nearby residents who deserve to know when sewage makes the water unsafe. As public alerts systems continue to be implemented, work continues to secure funding to upgrade our sewer infrastructure to address the root of the problem.

Earlier this year, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced a $67 million grant program to help states with stormwater infrastructure projects to reduce CSOs. On the state level, the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust has also awarded funding to communities this year to address CSOs, including $150,000 for stormwater asset management in Methuen and financing for a sewer system improvement project in Haverhill. Still, significant federal funding will be necessary to complete the infrastructure upgrades we need.

My Merrimack Valley colleagues and I are continuing to work with our federal partners to secure additional federal funding. At the state level, my colleagues and I are continuing to advocate for funding for CSOs through the federal American Rescue Plan Act that allocated over $5 billion to our Commonwealth. The Massachusetts Legislature continues to hold public hearings to determine how best to allocate these funds.

It is encouraging that the issue of CSOs has been gaining attention on the local, state, and national levels. With over 500 million gallons spilled into the Merrimack River every year, continued action on this issue is urgently needed. Historic investments in wastewater infrastructure are within reach, and my colleagues and I will continue to push for long-term solutions and the resources to make them happen.

State Representative Linda Dean Campbell represents the cities of Methuen and Haverhill in the State Legislature. She serves as House Chair of the Joint Committee on Advanced IT, the Internet and Cybersecurity and as Chair of the Special Joint Oversight Committee on the Holyoke Soldiers' Home COVID-19 Outbreak. She can be reached at Linda.Campbell@mahouse.gov or (617) 722-2380. ◊

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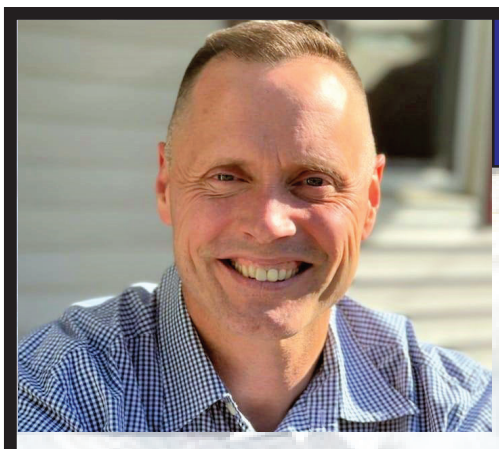

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I am a 20-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force, retiring as a prior enlisted captain. I am a lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (past commander), Disabled American Veterans & American Legion. I hope to serve Methuen as honorably as I served our great nation.

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20 Years Later - America Disgraces Our 9/11 Heroes

Twenty years ago this nation was attacked by Muslim Terrorists who hate this country because we do not subjugate our women, we do not believe in violence committed in the name of our "god" and we allow our citizens the freedom to make their own decisions.

We remember the towers coming down that day, the innocent civilians who jumped to their deaths, the hole in the pentagon, and the brave people who took down a plane in Shanksville, Pennsylvania so that those terrorists could not fly it into the White House.

We also remember the hero police officers and firefighters who were charging into the towers as they were collapsing, the weeks of searching for survivors, and the selfless actions of thousands of Americans who proclaimed that day that we would never ever forget.

In fact, we all made that pledge.

On that day, our eyes were opened to the fact that we had ignored the real threat from Muslim terrorists while we were all obsessed with Charlie Sheen, Mylie Syrus, and the irrelevant outrage of the day. Again we said, we will never do that again.

Our eyes were opened to real risks and sacrifices that our cops and firefighters make every day. We finally got it, we as a nation finally understood the importance of police, firefighters and other first responders.

On 9/12, the day after, we were all Americans. There was no republican vs. democrat, no black vs. white, no men vs. women. We all understood that if we do not stand together to address this threat to our country and our lives, we would not be here much longer.

My how times have changed.

Now, twenty years later, the Taliban controls Afghanistan, Al Qaida is killing Americans, our president cares more about white supremacy than real threats to the homeland, our police are under attack in every major city, our is flag burned by Americans obsessed with race and class warfare, our celebrities and sports figures disrespect our flag and our freedoms, and our politicians think nothing of leaving Americans stranded behind enemy lines.

It's a disgrace.

How did we get here?

How did this country go from fully united in our understanding and appreciating of the threats that face us - and the value of our police - to turning on each other and painting all cops as racist killers who gun down people for fun?

How did we go from a government hell bent on killing our enemies to a government that rewards them with money, weapons, and a promise of legitimacy if they just promise to be good?

How did we go from understanding who our real enemies are, to obsessing on phantom enemies like "climate change" and "white supremacy" and people who don't want to wear a mask?

It almost seems as though 911 never happened. We pay lip service to the sacrifices made that day the way we now pay lip service to Martin Luther King's dream of black and white people living in a color-blind society.

The fact is, as a society, we didn't forget, we just stopped caring. As a result, our leaders stopped caring.

We did that.

We are responsible for it.

And because we are now living in a pre-911 mindset in this country, with compulsions to turn on each other instead of standing together against those who wish to destroy our government, our freedoms, and our lives - there is another 9/11 coming.

We know that because we are doing the same thing we were doing prior to 9/11.

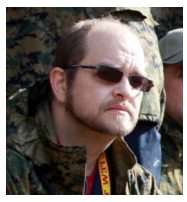
We hold ceremonies for our fallen soldiers but do nothing about veteran homelessness. We say we care about the rule of law, while we open our borders creating an entire class of people who are exempt from the law. We silence people who try to alert us to the dangers of Muslim terrorists by calling them racists and bigots. We spit on the memory of those who have died in Iraq and Afghanistan by treating Muslim terrorists like legitimate nation state allies.

We often hear the phrase, elections have consequences. What we are experiencing today is proof of that.

The only way to reverse all of this is to start caring again.

We have to start caring about who we elect and make sure they are going to protect us. We have to start paying attention to the real threats to our freedoms and our lives. We have to stop attacking each other and start attacking those who are truly trying to take us down, both abroad and from within.

If we don't return to the mindset we had on 9/12, twenty years from now The United States will look a lot more like Afghanistan and a lot less like America.



Tom Duggan is publisher of The Valley Patriot, the book "Heroes in Our Midst", a former Lawrence School Committee member, and hosts the Paying Attention! Podcast which can be downloaded on iTunes, iHeartRadio, Spotify, & PodBean. Email your comments to valleypatriot@aol.com.

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MA Must Cut Ties with Firm That Fed the Opioid Crisis

Diana DiZoglio
MA STATE SENATOR

Hello Valley Patriot Readers,

This past February, the consulting firm McKinsey & Co. settled a lawsuit brought by Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey and 46 other state Attorneys General after admitting to their role in helping pharmaceutical companies, including Purdue Pharma, bolster the sale of opioids like Oxycontin to increase profits.

The settlement, which saw McKinsey pay out $573 million for its involvement in the opioid crisis, came on the heels of a series of lawsuits that showed how McKinsey worked tirelessly to drive sales of Oxycontin, even after Purdue Pharma pleaded guilty in 2007 to federal criminal charges that it had misled doctors and regulators about Oxycontin's risks. Over the past two decades, more than 450,000 U.S. citizens have died from opioid overdoses.

Yet, despite this company's proven record of violating the public trust, the Governor's Administration recently tasked McKinsey with conducting a report to assess the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on work behavior. This came on the heels of the Administration earlier providing funds to the firm for consultation on the state's pandemic response. In total, Massachusetts taxpayers have given McKinsey nearly $19 million since the start of 2020.

In response to the Administration's continued relationship with McKinsey, I, alongside State Senator Anne Gobi, recently wrote to Governor Baker, requesting he immediately stop expending taxpayer dollars on a company that played a significant role in perpetuating the opioid epidemic.

It is truly unconscionable that the Administration would reward McKinsey with additional state contracts after all of the pain they have inflicted upon families in Massachusetts and across the country. That they have been tasked with the preparation of critical reports on COVID-19 metrics is all the more confounding.

It is imperative that the Administration end its relationship with this notorious firm as soon as possible and I will not stop advocating until these ties are finally severed.

If you have any questions on this or any other issue, please feel free to contact me anytime via email at Diana.Dizoglio@masenate.gov or phone at 978-984-7747.

Yours in service, Diana ◊

Two Local Heroes Revceive Purply Heart

Dan Jarvis of Newbury and Dan Cotnoir of Dracut (formerly of Lawrence) both received a purple heart for their service in Afghanistan and Iraq.

ARMY SPECIALIST
DONALD JARVIS

Haverhill resident Donald Jarvis was awarded the Purple Heart last month from injuries sustained over nine years ago in Afghanistan.

Army Specialist Donald Jarvis was injured when an improvised explosive device (IED) struck his vehicle.

As a combat engineer, the mission of his unit was to conduct route clearance in Southern Afghanistan. That means preventing IED emplacement and ensuring freedom of movement along the routes for friendly and coalition forces.

On February 13, 2012, a 200-250lb IED struck Specialist Donald Jarvis' vehicle below his seating, causing the vehicle to roll onto its side. As a result, Specialist Jarvis was sent to Landstuhl, Germany medical testing, screens, and scans. After being in Germany for a week, Specialist Jarvis was sent to Fort Belvoir Community Hospital and was there for six months for treatment.

Today, Specialist Donald Jarvis has a traumatic brain injury, total hearing loss in his right ear, vertigo, vision issues, dizziness, and balance issues. Besides the traumatic brain injury, he also has post-traumatic stress disorder and sustained right-side physical injuries affecting his knee and shoulder. Because of Jarvis' right-side injuries, his service dog, Mocha, accompanied him on the left.

"The purple tie I am wearing," Jarvis told The Valley Patriot, "was owned by my friend Dan Strange who recently passed away. It was a gift from Dan's family. It was his favorite tie. Dan Strange is the reason why I got the Purple Heart today. Back in 2015 it came up in discussion with Dan Strange and Francisco Urena. From that day forward Dan made it his mission to make it right and get the Purple Heart awarded to me. In the end, he is the reason why today I am a Purple Heart recipient."

STAFF SGT. DAN COTNOIR

Dracut - Dracut's Dan Cotnoir was awarded the Purple Heart last month at the American Legion in Dracut after 18 years of waiting for the military to find his paperwork. Cotnoir was given the highest military award for injuries he received in battle on September 6, 2004, outside Falujia.

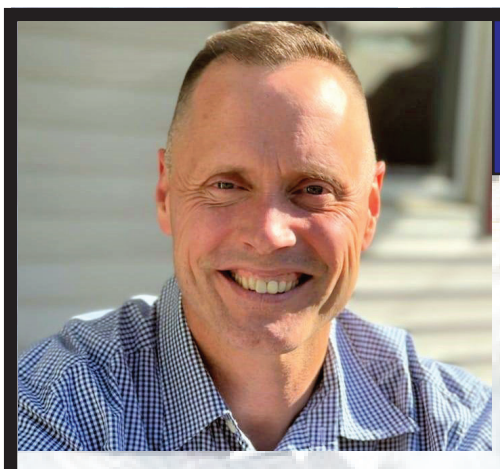
Prior to his injuries in Faluja, Cotnoir was tasked with cutting down the dead bodies of American Servicemen that were left hanging from a bridge after being tortured and killed by the Taliban.

Cotnoir took debris to his face and forehead and suffered a traumatic brain injury as the result of a roadside bomb.

He was pinned with the purple Heart by Chief Warrant Officer Edward Williams who was Cotnoir's Chief Warrant Officer when he was sent to Camp Pendleton. "The infamous Marine who threw me under the bus," Cotnoir said laughing.

"When I first found out that I was

PURPLE HEART: PAGE 14



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I am a 20-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force, retiring as a prior enlisted captain. I am a lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (past commander), Disabled American Veterans & American Legion. I hope to serve Methuen as honorably as I served our great nation.

VOTE NOVEMBER 2nd!

Mike Downs

Methuen City Council * West District

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT MIKE DOWNS

TMF GALA SEPT. 18TH

The Movement Family will be holding their 10th Anniversary Gala on Saturday, September 18th, at the Claddagh Pub, 399 Canal St. in Lawrence. The event will take place from 7-11pm. Tickets are $40, and the money goes to helping TMF feed and provide services for the homeless.

DEPENA REACHING OUT TO WHITE VOTERS

The one thing Brian DePena has hammered home during his campaign for mayor of Lawrence is that the days of Latino candidates ignoring the city's white minority population are over. "I don't want to be mayor of the Latino population in Lawrence," DePena told The Valley Patriot. "I want to represent everybody. When Latinos were the minority, we always asked, 'who is going to represent us and our needs?' Now that we are in the majority, we have to remember what that was like. We have to make sure we reach out to the Anglo community and make sure their needs are represented in the city. Too many people want to represent their group, their ethnicity, their culture, but I am running to represent everyone."

EUNICE ZEIGLER TO RUN FOR SENATE

Methuen East District Councilor Eunice Zeigler has announced that she is going to run for Diana DiZoglio's state senate seat next November. DiZoglio is leaving the senate to run for State Auditor. Zeigler will have an uphill battle with Andy Vargas in the race. Vargas is the preferred candidate for the state party as he is hostile to police, is against measures that would ensure voting rights - like Voter ID - and supports partial birth abortion (abortion on demand up until the moment of birth.

LAWRENCE'S MAYORAL RACE VASQUEZ VS BONET

When Dan Rivera abandoned his job as mayor earlier this year, City Council President Kendrys Vasquez was chosen by the council to be acting mayor.

Vasquez has been embroiled in controversy since taking office a few months ago, as members of the city's personnel department claim he has campaign workers on the city payroll campaigning on city time and using city vehicles to collect donations. For his part, Kendrys has put the entire personnel department on paid leave pending an investigation. He says that Frank Bonet (a Willie Lantigua loyalist, and candidate for city council) and his staff are "corrupt". It's hard to know who is right and who is wrong in this latest Kendrys Vasquez controversy. In fact, they may both be right. We have witnessed the political shenanigans and manipulations of Frank Bonet going back more than a decade in Lawrence and it's not outside the realm of possibility that he is corrupt. On the other hand, that doesn't mean Bonet's claims against Vasquez are wrong. Let's see what the voters think on election day this month.

TOM DUGGAN'S NOTEBOOK

Than

**** CALENDAR ****

GREATER LAWRENCE TECH CLASS OF '81 REUNION

The Greater Lawrence Regional Tech Class of '81 is having a reunion Saturday October 9th, 2021. The event is taking place at the Claddagh Pub 399 Canal St. Lawrence, Massachusetts 01840 at 7PM. Tickets are $30 pp and includes appetizers and more. Tickets can be purchased on Event Bright and search "Greater Lawrence Regional Class of 81 40th Reunion! "For more information, please contact Craig Bachler at c.bachler@verizon.net

METHUEN LIONS CLUB NOTES

The members of the Methuen Lions Club invite everyone to visit our booth at Methuen Day on Saturday October 2. There will be a special free raffle for a $100 gift card to Market Basket for those over 18, and games for kids of all ages. Stop by and enter because you can't win if you don't enter.

September events include assisting our fellow Lions from the Dracut Club at the Dracut Old Home Day to be held on September 11th at the high school complex on Lakeview Avenue in Dracut.

On Tuesday September 14th we will meet jointly with the Lawrence Lions Club at Salvatore's Restaurant on Merrimack Street in Lawrence at 6:30 PM. All are welcome to join us for a glimpse at what Lions Clubs do for their community.

On each Wednesday evening in September our members will be assisting other volunteers in preparing the Nevins Library for their semi-annual book sale which will be held on September 25 to 27th at the library. If you can spare an hour or more on any of those Wednesdays, extra help is always appreciated. Preparations begin at 6PM, hope to see you there.

Methuen's Lions collect used eyeglasses for recycling purposes. Glasses can be donated at the Nevins Library and the Methuen Senior Center during their usual hours of operation. We will also have a collection box at the Methuen Day celebration. Most of the used eyeglasses are distributed in areas of great need and where local practice allows. Some of the glasses are sent to vision programs at universities in the Boston area to help with training future eye care professionals.

Boston will host the International Lions Clubs Convention from July 7 to July 11, 2023. To learn more about this exciting event, visit the convention website at LCICON2023Boston.com.

Lions Clubs International is the world's largest community service organization and is made up of some 15,000 clubs worldwide. You can learn more about our clubs at lionsclubs.org or by e-mailing Dave O'Brien at liondave2765@gmail.com.

TRAILS & SAILS 10 DAYS OF FREE EVENTS - Presented by Essex Heritage, Trails & Sails features more than 150 free events over 10 days, this year held from Friday, September 17th through Sunday, September 26th. Participants can explore the website for events at www.trailsandsails.org or pick up a guidebook at one of the 13 Visitor Centers in Essex County starting August 28th.

This year's event participants can take advantage of a variety of family-friendly activities, walks, guided hikes, historical tours, lectures, and other activities – happening morning, afternoon, and evening over 10 days. There's an event for everyone:

• Maritime Fans: Explore the historic Hospital Point Lighthouse in Beverly; set sail on the Schooner Fame in Salem; take a tour around Fort Sewall in Marblehead; learn about the Lightkeepers of Egg Rock in Nahant; walk around historic Essex with a self-guided walking tour; see Gloucester from a new perspective with a climb up the City Hall Clock Tower; and more!

• Outdoor Enthusiasts: Hike up Powwow Hill in Amesbury; explore the Lynn Woods; take a birding tour in the Upper Little River Watershed in Newburyport; walk around Whittier Birthplace's Freeman Memorial Trail with a self-guided tour in Haverhill; stop by Ipswich River Watershed Association HQ for their Save The River Day in Ipswich; and more!

• Fans of Walking Tours: Walking Richard Fay's Estate in Lynn; Charlotte's Salem walking tour; Asbury Grove History Tour in Hamilton; West Parish Garden Cemetery Tour in Andover; the Bridges of Maudslay in Newburyport; Lynn Heritage State Park walking tour in Lynn; Crime and Urban Legends of Lawrence; The Port of Ipswich; Rising Tides: Salem and the Sea; and more!

• Family Fun: Explore the night sky in Amesbury; dig for History at the Rebecca Nurse Homestead in Danvers; go on an architectural treasure hunt in Salem; fly your kite (or make one and fly it) during Kite Day at Cogswell's Grant in Essex; take a nature hike and then watch the movie, FernGully at Veasey Park in Groveland; join a fish seining

NOTEBOOK: NEXT PAGE

WINSTON SAYS!

If diversity is so important why is there only one white PERSON on the Lawrence City Council? Asking for a friend!

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NOTEBOOK: FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

demonstration at Forest River Park in Salem; and more!

• Art & Culture lovers: Explore outdoor sculptures in Newburyport; be dazzled by the St. Stephen's Church's stained-glass windows in Lynn; watch Blacksmithing demonstrations at the Essex Company Forge in Lawrence or at Saugus Iron Works; take in history, murals, and urban art during the Lynn at Night walking tour; take a tour of medieval artifacts and stunning architecture at Hammond Castle in Gloucester; more!

• Community Festival Fans: Have fun at the various community festivals happening including Team Haverhill's River Ruckus in Haverhill, Salisbury Days three-day festival in Salisbury, Andover Thrives Community Day, or Harbor Fest in Beverly.

All Trails & Sails events are free & most are available on a first-come, first-serve basis except for a few reservations-required events. Additionally, COVID-19 is still an evolving challenge. Participants are asked to be mindful of local & state guidelines when participating in events as it may vary by town. Participants should follow their event host's lead when it comes to mask and social distance protocols. Trails & Sails 2021 is generously sponsored by Eastern Bank, Salem Five Charitable Foundation, and Institution for Savings.

2ND ANNUAL METHUEN KIWANIS BIKE RODEO

On Saturday, September 18th the community is invited to the 2nd Annual Methuen Kiwanis Bike Rodeo where children can test their bicycle handling skills on their own bikes, while being encouraged to increase helmet use. There will be a skills course including braking without skidding, walking the bike through a crosswalk, waiting at stop signs, etc.

Free Bike Helmets for children participating with their own bicycles while supplies last. This event will take place in the Chick-fil-A parking lot on 73 Pleasant Valley Street, Methuen from 10AM – 1PM. Children will also enjoy a Guest Appearance by the Chick-fil-A Cow

Check out our Methuen Kiwanis Club Facebook page for more information.

MUSEUM OF PRINTING JOINS SMITHSONIAN MAGAZINE'S 17TH ANNUAL MUSEUM DAY

HAVERHILL - The Museum of Printing will open its doors free of charge to all Museum Day ticketholders on Saturday, September 18, 2021, as part of Smithsonian magazine's 17th annual Museum Day, a national celebration of boundless curiosity in which participating museums emulate the free admission policy at the Smithsonian Institution's Washington DC-based museums. The annual event allows museums, zoos, and cultural centers from all 50 states to emulate the spirit of the Smithsonian Institution's Washington, D.C. based facilities, which offer free admission every day. This year's event is sponsored by The Quaker Oats Company

Psychic and Healing Fair Comes to Newburyport

PSYCHIC HEALING FAIR IN NEWBURYPORT

This October, Gigi Bella Luce owner of The Enchanted Willow in Merrimac MA will be channeling the spirits to Newburyport. This October 2nd from 11am - 4 pm, The Elks Club will be transformed into a Psychic and Healing Fair, with renowned psychics from all around the area, along with Spiritual Healers and Vendors to shop for magical and spiritual items. Gigi is a Psychic-Medium, Usui Reiki Master, Spiritual Life Coach, and a Crystal Energy Worker. She has been involved with the spiritual world since she was a young child, being born with many gifts and abilities she finally decided in her 20s that she needed to offer help and guidance to those that were in need. Gigi herself will be offering 15-minute readings for $25.

TRINITARIAN CHURCH SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Summer Concert Series
September 19th, 2021
Congregational Church
72 Elm Street North Andover

Come join us as we listen, sing along and dance to the Rico Barr Band. New England's Premier Swing and Party Band. They perform selections from the Jazz and Rock decades including Motown and R & B, as well as Latin. They also perform current hits. They have been featured at Swinging Under the Stars at Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Ryles Jazz Club, Swing City in Cambridge, and The Boston Harbor Festival. The Rico Barr Band will be playing in the parking lot at the church on September 19th from 4-6PM.

Bring a chair, your sing along voice and for sure your dancing shoes. We can't wait to see you dance the night away. ◊

Dracut Parents Unmask Hypocrisy About Mask Mandate

Brian Genest
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

There are a lot of lucky and loved kids in Dracut. If you saw the Dracut School Committee meeting about mandatory masks, you saw that love and caring for yourself firsthand from their parents. The usually silent majority stood up, spoke out and made impassioned pleas on behalf of their children.

Fourteen parents spoke about the mandatory mask mandate at the meeting—three in favor and eleven against. Speaker after speaker presented facts and figures, shared their personal stories, and made their cases. While the majority of speakers focused on the importance of physical health, many parents also talked about the negative consequences that masks have had on their children when it comes to their psychological development, mental wellbeing, and social skills.

Parents shared painful examples of the ways their children are suffering. Some kids have anxiety and fear from wearing the masks. Some have physical pain because of chaffing from being masked for the 8-hour school day. Some won't eat lunch because they can't stand the smell in their masks all afternoon.

In their comments, parents covered many topics related to masks, but nearly all speakers touched on the importance of letting parents choose what's right for their own children. One other theme also stood out: hypocrisy. The hypocrisy of school committee members meeting unmasked to talk about making kids wear masks in school. The hypocrisy of bureaucrats picking and choosing which guidance to follow and when. The hypocrisy of politicians at all levels who tell us to do one thing and then do another themselves.

Examples of hypocrisy cited by speakers included politicians ranging from the school committee to former President Barack Obama.

"I'm here to speak out against mandatory masking and the irony hasn't been lost on me that we're all able to comfortably discuss it with nary a mask in sight," pointed out

Joseph Anello. "The CDC is nothing but a governing body that makes a recommendation. Last year, they did make a recommendation that the safest place for children was back in school. Nobody put children back in school when the CDC recommended that."

Kevin Gavin mentioned similar topics. "I noticed nobody here is wearing a mask so, you guys, I don't know if you can go out in public and not wear a mask and then potentially vote on something to have children wear masks in school," he said. "Does anybody know how many children have died from COVID-19 during this whole pandemic? It's 358 children out of 73 million. Those are the CDC numbers."

"Two weekends ago, there was a large event on Martha's Vineyard with 500 to 600 people in an enclosed tent. There was singing, dancing, eating, no social distancing, no one wearing a mask," Lisa Lanteigne reminded the committee. "When someone asked Governor Baker about this because he just ordered this mask mandate, his response was, and I quote him, 'I expect that people will use their own judgment about these things.' And for the very first time I actually agree with the governor that we should all be able to use our own judgment when it comes to what's best for our bodies and our children."

"Most children have had a very normal summer travelling, playing sports, going to the park, the beach," Allison Stilian said. "Many have been unmasked and around friends throughout the community and beyond. How can we go backwards and mask them again?"

"Many children have been going out this entire time," echoed Sarah Powling. "Currently, they can go to Red Sox games, NASCAR races, Canobie Lake, and just about every store and restaurant in this town without wearing a mask. The large majority of people in New England, including many sitting here right now, are going out to these public places with their children and not wearing masks."

Lesson learned: Nothing stings worse than hypocrisy, except exposing the truth about that hypocrisy. Class dismissed.

—Brian Genest is the producer and host of Eye on Dracut on DATV Channel 8. Don't miss the September episode with highlights from all 14 parents who spoke about the mask mandate. ◊

Specialist Matthew Pollini Memorial Fund

Serving those in Need - An Interview with President Michael Petterson

KANE
VALLEY PATRIOT MASCOT

Kane was honored to meet Michael Petterson, president of the Specialist Matthew Pollini Memorial Fund. Kane learned the Pollini Memorial Fund is a non-profit organization created to honor the life of Army National Guard Soldier, Specialist Matthew Pollini whose selfless service to his country, community, family, and friends is remembered through continuing his mission of helping those in need. Matthew was known for putting his family first including his military family.

Matthew, a resident of Rockland, MA joined the Army National Guard, Military Police Corps at the age of 18, in October of 2005. Michael explained to Kane that Matthew joined the Guard after watching the mission of the National Guard during Hurricane Katrina. Michael said, "This is who Matthew is at his core, someone who helps people. "

Specialist Matthew Pollini deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom with the 772nd Military Police Company, Massachusetts Army National Guard. He was assigned to 3rd platoon, 1st squad B-team as a gunner. Michael who served as his Staff Sergeant reminisced on how Matthew kept the morale and motivation of the soldiers high through his caring nature and sense of humor that was appreciated by his fellow soldiers. Michael explained to Kane that his personality was vital to the squads success especially on long challenging days.

Specialist Matthew Pollini died during a vehicle rollover incident on January 22, 2009 while returning from mission near Forward Operating Base (FOB) Delta in Al Kut, Iraq at the Age of 21. Immediately after his passing, Michael Petterson and his soldiers created the Specialist Matthew Pollini Memorial fund to serve as a continuation of his life's purpose, to serve those in need. The mission of the Fund is to assist victims of natural and man-made disasters, and to assist military members and first responders that have been seriously affected by occupational hazards

Michael Petterson explained to Kane that he, the Pollini family, fellow soldiers, and members of his family have been running events for 11 years. Most recently was the July 24th Pollini Motorcycle Run very well attended by the community. On October 3rd, 2021 will be the 6th Annual Specialist Matthew Pollini 5K Ruck and Run starting at Lenzi's in Dracut. It is well known in community circles that owner Mike Lenzi is a strong supporter of Veterans.

Mike explained to Kane that he and his soldiers decided to add the Ruck and Run as an event since many community members wished to participate in a fundraiser but didn't have a motorcycle for the bike run. Mike said, "Rucking is something familiar to military members and has had a positive response and attendance"

Kane told Mike he gets it; he is also stuck at home when his humans go off on the motorcycle. That doesn't seem fair. However, rucking he loves and gets to go! In fact, he starting training for the Ruck and Run two weeks ago.

He thinks this would be a great place to meet other people and if you would like you could run. Sometimes Kane runs but he doesn't like it when bugs go in his mouth.

Kane also learned besides the Motorcycle Run and the Ruck and Run, there is a scholarship fund set up in memory of Specialist Michael Pollini presented to a high school senior at Rockland High School. Candidates for the scholarship write an essay on teamwork, leadership, and selfless service. The winner of the scholarship is selected by the Pollini family. Kane also attends school but doesn't write essays. He is supposed to sit, stay, and not stare at other dogs. Two out of three isn't bad.

Kane noticed that Michael Petterson enjoyed talking about the numerous military members and first responders the Specialist Matthew Pollini Memorial Fund had assisted. The list was endless including immediate transitional housing after a fire, clothing assistance, and food assistance. Other examples include support in Lawrence / Haverhill after the recent gas explosion. Mike explained what he likes most is that the fund provides immediate assistance, when the need is greatest.

Kane thinks Michael Petterson and his team are very special people, but he kept that to himself because Mike is humble and emphasized he wanted Kane to write about Specialist Matthew Pollini. Carrying out Matthew's life purpose of doing for others is front and center and to be emphasized. If you would like to donate to the Specialist Matthew Pollini Memorial fund, volunteer, or attend an event, this is how you would get in touch.

Michael Petterson
SPC Matthew Pollini Memorial Fund
978-987-6244
spcpollini@gmail.com

So come Out and Ruck with us on October 3rd at Lenzi's in Dracut.

Kane wanted to say until then, "Go Ruck Yourself' but was told that wasn't appropriate. ◊

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Come to my assistance in this great need that I may receive the consolation and help of heaven as I work with my challenges, particularly (here make your request). I praise God with you and all the saints forever.

I promise, blessed St. Jude, to be ever mindful of this great favor, to always honor you as my special and powerful patron, and to gratefully encourage devotion to you.

Amen.

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PURPLE HEART: FROM 5

going to receive the Purple Heart I felt very grateful, but when you actually get it pinned on you, it's very emotional. You really feel the weight of what it means. You don't think of yourself as someone who rates getting this award. It's so humbling!"

Cotnoir says that former Valley Patriot of the Month Donald Boulet was responsible for Cotnoir finally getting his Purple Heart after 18 years. "He's the one who picked up the ball and got it rolling. The paperwork got lost and Boulet made sure I got it. He was my sergeant when I was a private first class. He served in my unit at Devens, but when we got deployed, I went to a separate unit. He made this happen. ◊

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Attorneys for Petitioner

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, CANYON COUNTY
MAGISTRATE DIVISION

LAURA FRANCENI PATINO SANCHEZ, Petitioner,
vs.
GIOVANY ANDRES BARRERA PUERTO,Respondent.
Case No.CV14-21-05062
SUMMONS
Gulstrom, Chad

TO: Respondent, Giovany Andres Barrera Puerto

NOTICE: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED BY THE ABOVE-NAMED PETITIONER. THE COURT MAY ENTER JUDGMENT AGAINST YOU WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE UNLESS YOU RESPOND WITHIN TWENTY-ONE (21) DAYS. READ INFORMATION BELOW:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that in order to defend this lawsuit, an appropriate written response must be filed with the above designated court at the Canyon County Courthouse, located at 1115 Albany St., Caldwell, ID 83605 (208) 454-7300, within 21 days after service of this Summons on you. If you fail to respond the court may enter judgment against you as demanded by the Petitioner in the Petition.

A copy of the Petition for Child Custody and Support is served with this Summons. If you wish to seek the advice of, or representation by an attorney in this matter, you should do so promptly so that your written response, if any, may be filed in time and other legal rights protected.

An appropriate written response requires compliance with Rule 205 and other Idaho Rules of Family Law Procedure and must also include:

1. The title and number of this case.

2. If your response is an Answer to the Petition, it must contain admissions or denials of the separate allegations of the Petition and other defenses you may claim.

3. Your signature, mailing address and telephone number, or the signature, mailing address and telephone number of your attorney.

4. Proof of mailing or delivery of a copy of your response to Petitioner's attorney, as designated above. To determine whether you must pay a filing fee with your answer, contact the Clerk of the above-named court.

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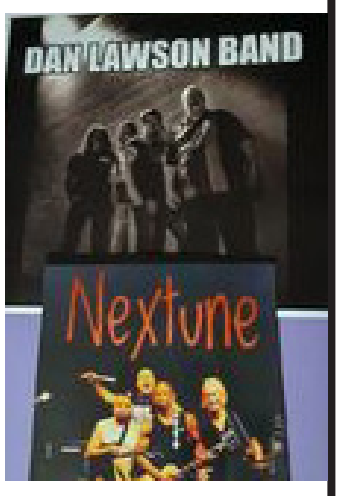

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Haverhill Veteran, Police Officer Guy Cooper Wants Your Vote for Mayor

Methuen resident, Courtney Rotondo, received scholarships from the Essex Agricultural Society. She recently attended the Topsfield Fair's Volunteer Picnic to be recognized for academic achievement and was presented with a book titled, "200 Years of the Topsfield Fair" in addition to their scholarship. The Essex Agricultural Society, distributed $37,000 in scholarships to 23 high school graduates.

Methuen became an official Purple Heart City. MCS has the ceremonies airing on Comcast 22 / FIOS 33 (HD2133) and streaming on methuentv.org on Sunday, August 15 at 9:30 am, Monday, August 16 at 11 am and 9:30 pm and Tuesday, August 17 at 3:30 pm. Posted on demand next week.

Contact your Senators and Reps to support Senate Bill S.1017
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https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/S1017/Bills/Joint

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HERO: FROM PAGE 1

During his tour in Vietnam, he was granted a brief R&R (Rest and Relaxation) to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, which he fondly remembers. During the Vietnam War, the US Military, paid for the transportation and hotel costs for a "vacation" destination on the "approved R&R list" for each soldier about halfway through their one-year tour. After arriving at the destination, the serviceman attended a briefing on the location by the local USO staff (United Service Organization). Dave said that other than transportation and hotel, you were on your own, and any expenses were out of your own pocket. Each soldier qualified for only a one-week trip to an approved destination outside of Vietnam. Some of the other approved spots during the Vietnam War were Bangkok, Hong Kong, Japan, Australia, Hawaii, Taiwan, and Singapore. The timing of a Soldiers "vacation" depended upon how many other Servicemen were on the list for that same destination. Each approved spot only had so many allocations available each week. The longest wait was for Australia, as it was the most popular. Dave received two "R&Rs" while in Vietnam. Because he contracted malaria during his tour of duty, was removed from combat for two weeks and then sent back after he recovered.

Dave earned his GED while in the US Army, and reaching the rank of Staff Sgt, Dave served two tours in Germany, one in Korea, and one in Vietnam. Asked why he left the US Army after eight years? He vividly described the problems with racism and drug abuse the US Military fell into in the early 1970s. In combat, he encountered no issues with racism or drug abuse, but in the post-Vietnam War era, Army leadership grappled with widespread alcohol and drug abuse, and several major and minor incidents of racism. Dave said most of the discipline was left to senior noncommissioned officers such as he. Many of the college educated, commissioned officers, would avoid confrontations with enlisted men, over substance abuse and racial issues.

Dave is quick to point out that these problems were largely solved after he left, when the US Military transitioned to a better paid, (compared to draftee pay) all volunteer force, after the end of the draft in the 1970s. The last draft call was on December 7, 1972, and the authority to induct expired on June 30, 1973. Making the high school classes of 1973 the last class to be drafted. The date of the last drawing for the draft lottery was on March 12, 1975. American Draft registration with the US Selective Service System was suspended on April 1, 1975. US Navy Submarine Veteran, President James Earl Carter brought

back controversial "male only" draft registration in 1980. What caused the uproar, over the exclusion of women in the draft, was the nearly simultaneous admission of women to the Military Academies a few years earlier in 1976.

After leaving the US Military, Dave worked very hard, he installed carpet, worked in sales, was employed at Bradco Industries, and is now semi-retired, he delivers the Valley Patriot each month to readers throughout the Merrimack Valley. Dave and his wife Karen have been married for twenty-three years, Dave is blessed with, in addition to his wife, two stepdaughters, one son, and three grandchildren.

Dave Pelletier, truly a "Hero in Our Midst"!

The Dracut American Legion asks all World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War Veterans, to call (603) 518-5368 and sign up for an Honor Flight to the Memorials in Washington DC! Veterans of all eras are asked to go the American Legion's Web site www.legion.org, and join the American Legion, preserving our Veteran's Benefits for future generations.

John Cuddy served in the US Navy's Construction Battalions (also known as the Seabees) after retiring from the US Navy; he earned a bachelor's in history and a master's in economics from the University of Massachusetts on the Lowell Campus. He has been employed in Logistics at FedEx for the last 25 years. If you know a World War II, Korean War, or Vietnam War, Veteran who would like their story told, please email him at John.Cuddy@Yahoo.com. ◊

THE DOCTOR IS IN!

Arthritis (Osteoarthritis)

Dr. Piere Ghassibi
VALLEY PATRIOT MEDICAL COLUMNIST

Greetings to all. After 44 years of medical practice, 30 years of which in Lawrence and North Andover, Massachusetts, I am retired but interested in writing a medical column exclusively here in The Valley Patriot and eager to share my points of view about common medical conditions.

These days, people are well informed, but I am hoping to emphasize some aspects of health and health care that I believe are important.

I see beliefs that people have which have been replaced by new knowledge, and there are myths too.

Let me start with Arthritis today, namely Osteo Arthritis, which is the commonest by far and is secondary to aging and, or obesity.

Other types of arthritis are much less common and due to infections, trauma, abnormal crystal accumulation in joints and those due to autoimmune diseases like Rheumatoid Arthritis, Lupus, Psoriasis and the like, in which our own immune system attacks our joints.

Unlike arthritis due to infections or autoimmunity, Osteoarthritis is a mechanical problem secondary to poor support of the joints by the stabilizing muscles. It is our muscles that hold our structure together and weak muscles let the joints kind of wobble from lack of stabilizing support. Hence, treatments with pills, braces, heat and ice, injections and massage with creams work by hiding the pain and do not aim at a cure.

It is exercise that builds the surrounding muscles that can help lead to a cure or near cure if the condition is advanced. As we know, exercise has to be gradual and safe and takes time and effort to give results.

I have seen great improvements in people who took time to persist and comply. It is also possible that exercise delays aging in general and increases the healing and nutritive blood supply to the cartilage and joints.

Of course, always be sure to check with your doctors first.

Working with a physical therapist, chiropractor, or personal trainer if possible, can be very beneficial.

Sincerely, Pierre Ghassibi, MD

If you have any questions or comments you can email me at ghassibi@hotmail.com ◊

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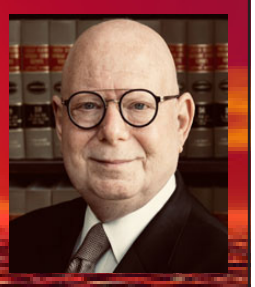

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SUE PIAZZA'S BOOK CORNER

War Lord: A Novel

(Saxon Tales Book 13) By Bernard Cornwell - Published by: Harper 2020

Genre: Action, Adventure, Historical Fiction. Amazon Kindle: $14.99

Pages: 353 includes a map and pages of place names. Bookmarkers: 5 out of 5

New York Times best-selling author Bernard Cornwell concludes his Saxon Series with War Lord. Though part of a larger series this is a stand-alone book. While it is not necessary that one read the previous books first, I found it more enjoyable to follow the story line in sequence.

The basis for the Netflix show The Last Kingdom this novel follows Uhtred, Lord of Bebbanburg, as he wars against enemies, and friends, in a battle for his homestead and the island which will eventually become England.

Uhtred's long life is full of shield walls and loves found and lost. The plot of his and the other warrior's adventures' piggy backs on the rise of Britain as it evolves from a place invaded and settled by north people, (e.g., Danes, Norse, Vikings) into a country bound together by people with one language and one religion.

Cornwell weaves a great tale, one that lasts through thirteen books. The characters are rich in back story. The settings are in depth in their description. The ocean spray and the angry white foam of a storm at sea as well as the features attributed to the long ships are skillfully done. The details of war, the smells of alcohol on your opponent's breath, the howls of horses as their bellies were split open, the images of lesser warriors picking up spoils of war, all work to give as accurate a portrait of the horrors of war as can be projected in the pages of a book. George R.R. Martin, creator of Game of Thrones says of this author's work, "Bernard Cornwell does the best battle scenes of any writer I've ever read, past or present."

This series has many layers. At its heart it is the story of how small communities of invading people band together to form larger more powerful clans. The victor accumulates more land (i.e., power, wealth, people). Hand and hand with this main storyline comes the influx of the Catholic religion (e.g., priests, bishops, monks, etc.) and their manipulation of the "Good Book" until their "nailed god" as the main character Uhtred calls him, controls all facets of this emerging English society. The old religion dies out. Subrogation of women is born.

In one discourse, the king wants Uhtred to marry a widow. "Mary the child, take her land and fortune …" Uhtred thinks maybe the widow doesn't want to wed. The king's retort, "Who cares? She's a woman with property, she will do as she's told."

Extensive in its scope and spanning hundreds of years of recorded accounts, the amount of historical research this author unearths is readily apparent in his works. An interesting fact we learn is that Mr. Cornwell has an actual genealogical link to the early inhabitants of the Scottish Castle of Bamburgh, the fictional castle of Bebbanburg.

This novel is compelling, educational, and exciting. I can feel the water's spray as the boat skims the ocean waves. Any book in this series is a keeper. A great escape and a fun read.

I would recommend this book.

Susan Piazza, a Navy veteran, is an author, columnist, and blogger. Her first book, the historical romance "A Bird Call That Isn't," can be found on Amazon at A Bird Call That Isn't Follow the main character's (Abigail) diary excerpts or get a FREE copy of the first chapter in Book One of her American Indian series go to susanpiazzaauthor.com and email her. She'd love to hear from you! ◊

WEATHER 101 with AL KAPRIELIAN

The Beginning of Fall

Welcome to September and the month that will officially begin the fall season.

During September the days continue to grow shorter with earlier sunsets. In contrast the nights will continue to get longer. Due to the sun getting lower in the sky, daily high temperatures will fall by month's end.

During September we can still see hot temperatures with 90 degrees or a little higher still possible. During the month we will start to see cold fronts coming down from Canada bringing cool refreshing air. Some chilly nights can begin to occur in September.

The tropics are still active and hurricanes are likely to form due to the very warm ocean temperatures in September. The frequency of hurricanes can increase in September.

Recapping August, it was another active month weatherwise. There were three hurricanes in August and we did get the remnant moisture from all 3 storms in the way of heavy rain. The first hurricane was Fred which gave parts of New England heavy rain. With the remnants of any tropical cyclones you can get spinups producing weak tornadoes usually EFO which is the weakest. EFO stands for Enhanced Fujita; the intensity scale for hurricanes goes from EFO to EF5. EF5 is the most intense with winds of 156 miles per hour or greater. The remnants of Fred produced some weak tornadoes in Clinton, MA and Thompson, CT.

After Fred we had the remnants of Henri which occurred on Sunday August 22nd. Initially Henri was headed for Nantucket and Cape Cod. This track changed and Henri tracked further west and made landfall at Westerly, Rhode Island. This spared eastern New England and parts of southern New Hampshire from getting the worst of the storm. Henri did produce some spinups which caused three weak tornadoes to form all EFO

The weak tornadoes occurred on Monday August 23rd. The weak tornadoes occurred in Marlborough, MA, Bolton, MA and Stow, MA. We did see a break from the rain later in the day Sunday August 22nd into early Monday morning as the heavy rain from Henri moved into New York state and eastern Pennsylvania.

The more westward track of Henri pushed the heavy rain well to our west. During Monday morning that remnant moisture and what was left of the circulation from Henri started to move back east and that is when the three weak tornadoes occurred. After the remnants of Henri were gone, we had our second heat wave of August during the last full week of the month.

Many areas saw a three-to-four-day heat wave from Tuesday August 24 through Saturday August 28. Many areas had high temperatures in the low to middle 90s. Nantucket Island had a high temperature of 92 degrees on Saturday August 28. This is unusual for them. That was the 4th warmest high temperature for Nantucket.

Their hottest temperature was 100 degrees in 1975. A cold front moved through Saturday night ending the heat wave. Sunday August 29th was much cooler and less humid and with an east to northeast wind; this brought in a maritime airmass responsible for the much cooler temperatures.

A very intense and extremely dangerous weather event occurred on Sunday August 29th and that was Hurricane Ida. Hurricane Ida made landfall on the Louisiana coast as a Category 4 hurricane with winds of 150 miles per hour. Ida made landfall on the 16th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina which made landfall on the Louisiana coast August 29, 2005, as a Category 3 storm which weakened from a 4. Ida tracked a little farther west then Hurricane Katrina.

Ida Made landfall at Port Fourchon at 11:55 AM central time which would be 12:55 PM our time. Ida intensified rapidly over the Gulf of Mexico ocean waters before making landfall. Ocean temperatures in the Gulf of Mexico were as high as the upper 80s. This was the fuel which gave Ida the ability to rapidly intensify.

Ida brought very heavy rain and destructive winds to Louisiana and even Mississippi. Over a million people lost power in Louisiana due to Ida's destructive winds. Ida even caused damage to the transmission lines. As a result, some areas could be without power for weeks and possibly months. Let's keep the people in our prayers. Ida was so intense that even after landfall it remained a hurricane for a while. The remnants of Ida look to track towards New England. How much rain will occur from IDA across New England? Also, will there be weak tornado spinups like we saw with Fred and Henri?

Stay Tuned to next month's article for the answers. The last day of August featured a nice day with temperatures of 80-85 degrees. In the meantime, enjoy the end of summer and stay safe!! ◊

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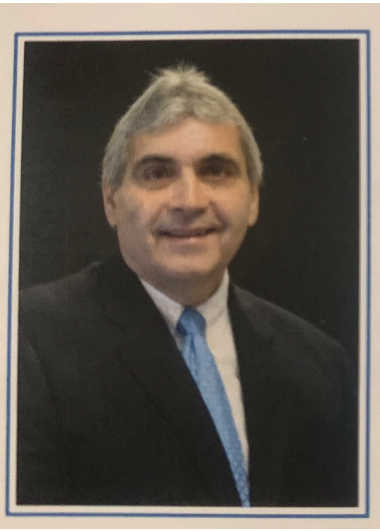
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Homestead Protection Error - An Open Letter to Governor Charlie Baker

September 7, 2021
VIA EMAIL COMMUNICATION
The Honorable Charlie Baker
Governor of Massachusetts
Massachusetts State House
Office of the Governor
24 Beacon Street, Rm. 280
Boston, MA 02133
RE: HOMEOWNER'S PLEA TO CORRECT EVIDENCED HOMESTEAD PROTECTION ERRORS

Dear Governor Baker:

My name is Mohan A. Harihar – I was born and raised in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and have lived here for most of my life. I love living in Massachusetts and have always considered it my home. In 2005, I purchased my home located at 168 Parkview Avenue, Lowell, MA. I was married at the time and had a good job, working in the beverage industry at the Corporate/Supplier level. Soon after purchasing the property, I filed for Homestead Protection with the North Middlesex Registry of Deeds (See attached photocopy). In 2008, my wife and I fell upon some hard financial times and we tried to modify our mortgage through the Mortgage Servicer – WELLS FARGO. However, over a 22-month period – and despite qualifying for a loan modification, we were denied six (6) times due to "calculation errors" made by WELLS FARGO. Each time, we were told that the error could not be corrected and we had to start the process over. We were later instructed that Wells Fargo would not approve a loan modification until there was FIRST a default on the loan for a period of no less than 90 days. Based on this instruction from the mortgage servicer, the loan went into default – at which time we were told that there still would be no approval for a loan modification. I knew there was something fraudulent going on, but was unable to prevent the foreclosure of my home in 2010. I'm not a legal expert and have no legal experience – but knew I had to fight for what is right, in order to save my home. Still facing severe financial hardship and no available resources to retain legal counsel (including legal assistance avenues suggested by the Commonwealth), I was forced to represent my self as a Pro Se Litigant.

A lot has happened since then – a partial background summary includes the following:

1. The foreclosure of my property was ultimately deemed ILLEGAL by: (1) The Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General (MA AGO); (2) US Department of Justice (DOJ); and (3) Federal Bank Regulators. In fact, I received settlements from two (2) separate lawsuits – the first settlement came from a lawsuit brought by 49 State AG's against the Big Banks; and the second from a similar lawsuit brought by Federal Bank Regulators - totaling approximately $3000. The legal disclosures of each settlement stated: "If this settlement amount does not cover your total damages for the loss of your home, etc.…, you have the legal right to pursue additional damages – on your own…"

2. In order to recoup the substantial gap in damages, civil complaints were first filed in MA State Court(s) – which in 2015 necessarily led to filing a Federal lawsuit in the US District Court (Boston) against all parties who knew there was no legal standing to my property and still conspired to defraud me of my Homestead. The Primary argument supporting the claim comes from a related case brought by the Federal Government and the sworn testimony of Nationally recognized Fraud Expert – Lynn Szymoniak, evidencing that the RMB (Residential Mortgage-backed) Trust that claimed to own my mortgage was tied to fraud in its creation. Therefore, the Trust – along with the associated mortgage(s): (1) has not been legally securitized; (2) is considered a non-security; and (3) are both considered entirely void once fraud has been evidenced. As a matter of record, this legal argument stands unopposed by all named Defendants. Since these evidenced legal arguments come from the Commonwealth and the Federal Government, my Homestead Protection should have prevented the illegal foreclosure and my unlawful displacement.

3. There's been a multitude of judicial failures associated with the referenced Federal (and MA State) litigation that has steadily gained attention throughout the Nation over the past decade. To date, there's been an unprecedented eleven (11) recusals of record (Federal, 2 MA State) after judicial misconduct had been evidenced for the record – largely in part to judicial officers ignoring their judicial oath and brushing aside all of my evidenced legal arguments for the purpose of reaching a corrupt and pre-determined outcome. Currently, all litigants are waiting for jurisdiction to be re-established in the Federal Court, following the sua sponte recusal of US District Court Judge – Hon. Allison Dale Burroughs. Similarly, in the Middlesex Superior Court (Woburn, MA), litigants are waiting for jurisdiction to be re-established, following the evidenced disqualification of the Hon. Janice W. Howe – who, as a matter of record has exemplified the same patterns of corrupt conduct as Judge Burroughs, however - has refused to recuse herself.

4. Based on my interpretation of the law, once jurisdiction has been justly restored, all Defendants face a DEFAULT judgement with prejudice, for purposefully trying to deceive the Court, or what is referred to as, "Fraud on the Court" under Fed. R. Civ. P. 60(b)(3). As a matter of record, the Fraud on the Court claims against all named Defendants stand unopposed. In the interest of judicial economy, I have (in good faith) offered all Defendants the opportunity to resume legal settlement discussions. However, all litigants have chosen to maintain their current position – making it necessary to continue the pursuit of maximum civil, criminal and professional accountability, regardless of timeline.

Governor Baker – to be clear, IN NO WAY am I suggesting that the Commonwealth should interfere with any ongoing litigation. However, it is necessary to bring to your attention the following list of government failures that are directly related to this matter and require corrective action. They include (but are not limited to) the following:

1. The Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General has thus far refused to bring criminal indictments for the evidenced criminal violations of record - that are directly related to the referenced civil complaint(s). This is one (1) of the reasons why the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and former Attorney General – Martha Coakley are named Defendants in the above-referenced Federal lawsuit - HARIHAR v US BANK et al;

2. Legal efforts to address and correct the identified Homestead Protection Errors are being blatantly ignored by the MA AGO, North Middlesex Registry of Deeds and the City of Lowell;

3. Legal efforts to resolve existing tax issues (stemming from this hardship) with the Massachusetts Department of Revenue (MA DOR) have thus far been blatantly ignored – including direct communications to: (1) Commissioner – Geoffrey E. Snyder; (2) Director – James Powers, Offer in Settlement (OIS) Unit; and (3) MA DOR's Head of Litigation – Thomas Condon, Esq.;

4. Legal efforts to report serious insurance breaches (Errors and Omissions) to the Massachusetts Division of Insurance (DOI) have thus far been blatantly ignored by Commissioner – Gary Anderson;

5. Legislative (and other) Leaders here in the Commonwealth – who as a matter of record have been regularly updated on these very serious legal issues for years, continue to exhibit nonfeasance/malfeasance. They include (but are not limited to): (1) US Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA); (2) US Senator Ed Markey (D-MA); (3) Congresswoman Lori Trahan (D-MA); (4) Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley (D-MA); and (5) Secretary of the Commonwealth - William F. Galvin. I have received multiple communications from Congressman Stephen Lynch (D-MA), a Senior member of the House Financial Services Committee – stating that his office would like to assist with the addressing the referenced housing and tax issues. However, after multiple communications with the Congressman's Boston office, there has yet to be any effort to address these issues;

6. Governor Baker – as required by Federal Law, I've reported to your direct attention evidenced violations to ARTICLE III and 18 U.S. Code § 2381 – Judicial Treason. The most egregious example has been evidenced by RECUSED US District Court Judge – Hon. Allison Dale Burroughs, who as a matter of record has continued to issue orders without jurisdiction. By definition, this very serious criminal violation is considered – "Warring against the Constitution of The United States". However, your office has yet to acknowledge this evidenced crime, for reasons unknown.

Governor Baker – I'm only one person and this ordeal has unnecessarily kept me in a severe financial hardship for more than a decade, with very limited means and without the ability to retain legal counsel – even with the severity (and totality) of these evidenced legal issues. No matter if it's an illegal foreclosure, or any other issue – NO AMERICAN or resident of this Commonwealth should ever have to endure the systemic failures that I have experienced firsthand – let alone for more than a decade. I want to believe that my Civil Rights actually mean something again, instead of being ignored. I want to believe that a judge will actually uphold their judicial oath and act impartially - instead of brushing aside all evidenced claims in order to reach a corrupt and pre-determined outcome. I want to believe that State Prosecutors will actually bring criminal indictments after I've filed a criminal complaint(s) for evidenced criminal violations - And I'd certainly like to see elected leaders in this Commonwealth – particularly those who continue to boast about their "accomplishments" fighting Wall Street, actually acknowledge these identified issues and fight for their Constituents. No American citizen or resident of this Commonwealth should EVER accept anything less. More than anything, I'd like to finally (and legally) return to MY HOME.

THE ASK

Governor Baker, the following corrective action is respectfully requested:

1. Please have your office assist with communication efforts to address the identified Homestead Protection Errors – I am currently trying to gain alignment with the MA AGO, North Middlesex Registry of Deeds and the City of Lowell, so that these evidenced Homestead errors can more easily be corrected in a court of law, without any further, unnecessary delay;

2. Please have your office assist with addressing identified criminal, tax and insurance issues with the MA AGO, MA DOR and MA DOI;

3. Please have your office assist with addressing professional licensure violations – and businesses found to have engaged in evidenced criminal, dangerous and unethical business practices, beginning with: (1) the listing Real Estate Brokers – Mary and Ken Daher (Weichert Realtors/Daher Companies, Methuen, MA); and (2) Buyer - Real Estate Instructor/Agent – Isabelle Perkins (Real Living – Schruender Real Estate, North Andover, MA) along with her husband Jeffrey Perkins and Bank Defendants – WELLS FARGO, US BANK and CITIGROUP. Collectively, these parties ignored legal disclosures delivered to them via certified mail in 2013 and instead, chose to DEFRAUD me of my Homestead, knowing that there was no legal standing to buy or sell My Property;

4. Please have your office assist with communication to Commonwealth's Office of General Counsel - Specifically, Chief of Staff - Diane Lawton, as I have extended an offer (in good faith) to have a settlement discussion with the Commonwealth, but have yet to receive a response.

Successful (and just) resolution to the above-referenced issues will certainly help to resolve existing legal issues in the US District Court and Middlesex Superior Court. Thank you, Governor Baker for your help with addressing - and justly resolving these issues. If you have any questions, please advise. If needed, additional information related to the decade-long litigation history can be found on my website: mohanharihar.academia.edu - I look forward to working together with your office and most importantly, returning to my home in the coming days.

GOD BLESS THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS!

Respectfully,

Mohan A. Harihar
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12 Roses - A Trip to Honor Our Fallen Troops in Iraq, Afghanistan

Donald Jarvis
VALLEY PATRIOT VETERAN COLUMNIST

Initially, my trip was not planned to look like it does today. However, as the events started to unfold in Afghanistan. I changed the focus of my upcoming trip a bit.

This year is a significant year for a few reasons. Did you know that this is the centennial year of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier? A few weeks ago, that was the focus of my trip. I planned to attend the ceremony on Veterans Day at Arlington National Cemetery. However, with what has been taken place over the last couple of weeks, I have decided to make some slight changes. In observance of the 20-year mark since the terrorist attacks on 9/11 and the current situation in Afghanistan, I decided I want to honor our Afghanistan Fallen Heroes personally and honor the victims of the attack on the Pentagon as well.

In November, I will be spending a few days in Washington DC. While I'm there, I will be placing a rose at the graves of our fallen. Our Afghanistan fallen and the victims of the Pentagon attack on 9/11 will receive one. I intend that the roses placed will symbolize Honor, Respect, and Never-Ending Love.

This trip has become very personal for me as a disabled veteran who served in Iraq and Afghanistan. I consider every person who has worn the cloth of our nation to be family. These veterans who are resting at Arlington National Cemetery are my fellow brothers and sisters. On this trip, I will be honoring my extended military family. At the same time, letting their family know that their loved one is not forgotten, and that we are grateful for the service and sacrifices their veteran made.

At the beginning of this year, I donated to have 12 roses placed each month. Each rose is placed at one of our fallen heroes at Arlington National Cemetery. This trip is going to be very similar to that. I also plan to hand a "Thank You" note to veterans as I see them on November 11, 2021. Just something small to let them know we are thinking of them and support them- not only today, but every day.

If you would like to support me in some way, I would greatly appreciate it. However, I am not seeking any volunteers to join me. I appreciate and know that some would probably like to join. Due to security and other measures, I will not be encouraging people to fly down with me for this. This is not that kind of trip. Sadly, no, you cannot go with me. All the roses will be placed - I promise.

However, the best way you could support is by donating to help cover the cost of the roses. Even if it's only a dollar, that's one more fallen hero being honored. You may send me thank you cards/notes to hand out if you would like. They can be very basic and simple "Thank You" or "Thank you for Your Service." I would love to try to encourage you to take the time and make homemade cards. Those have a different impact on people when they receive them.

Those who wish to donate towards the expense of the roses can donate at www.TheRoseFundVA.org. All donations are tax-deductible as The Rose Fund is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit. Regrettably, I cannot take any special rose placement requests. Arlington National Cemetery is about 639 acres and 27, 232, 693 sq ft. It would not be humanly possible to do anything outside what I am currently working on. My apologies. However, any additional funds raised will be used for future rose placements. A special rose placement request can be made at a later time. Thank you for your understanding.

Those who would like to send along some Thank You Notes or Thank You Cards can be mailed directly to me. The best address for this is Donald Jarvis, PO Box 8363, Bradford Ma 01835.

To all of those who have worn the cloth of our nation. Thank you for everything you have done in the name of our great country. Your hard work, dedication, and sacrifices have and will always be worth it. We as a Nation always stand with you and will always support you. We are forever grateful. May God Bless You, and may God Bless America!

Thank you!
Donald Jarvis
GWOT Veteran | OIF & OEF
Purple Heart Recipient ◊

BENEATH THE SURFACE

What is Natural Law?

Paul Murano
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

The question of natural law is a very important one. It has the potential to bridge the large intellectual and political gap that exists between the Christian and secular world views. In fact, it did just that throughout most of this nation's history.

Natural law is simply morality that corresponds to human nature. It is the way that enables individuals to attain happiness, families to thrive, and societies to prosper. It is common sense morality of right and wrong stemming from truth and justice, which everyone of sound mind inherently understands.

Despite the common misunderstanding, 'natural law' does not mean the laws of nature, nor does it apply to any other species. It may be unnatural for a dog to fly, but natural law relates strictly to humanity and the behaviors that lead to human fulfillment. It is only through discovering and living the natural law that humanity can flourish.

Everyone seeks fulfillment and happiness. Aristotle said no one can NOT seek happiness. It is the end or goal of all human behavior, the purpose for which all human action is chosen. One seeks money, fame, chocolate, sex, etc. in order to attain happiness. But one never seeks happiness in order to attain something else. Happiness is the goal, the end, consciously or unconsciously, for all. Natural law, properly understood, clears the way for true happiness.

Now let's go beneath the surface. Although much of natural law is intuitively known in every human heart and discernable through reason, there can be obstacles to accessing that innate knowledge. The most common one is our own selfishness and disordered desires. This obstacle is often fueled by another common obstacle – the entire media and education establishments being anti-natural law for decades.

To embrace natural law and attain happiness we must reject our irrational disordered desires, and rise above the media and its message that has formed us. Sounds like a tall order, but it's the only way to being truly human. Living according to your nature is proper self-love.

Another challenge that blinds people to the natural law is the two extremes of human nature the world models. One extreme tends to collectivize humans to the point of seeing them as depersonalized machines that, to be content, must all live the same way. Far Eastern cultures tend to accept this model of human nature. The other extreme is that of the West, which tends to see human beings as radical individuals with little or no commonality. Hence, there can be no common moral code. This falsehood sees the individual as the arbiter of his own morality to the point where each is almost like a species of his own.

The collectivist error and the individualist error cloud our vision of human nature, since neither strives for the good and human digniity is sacrificed.

It is important to note that natural law has gone out of style not because it has been proven irrational. Quite the contrary, it corresponds to the truth of our being, and that makes many uncomfortable since they'd prefer to think they can fool mother nature and Father God.

Natural law predates Christianity. We see it spoken of in Cicero and the ancient Greek philosophers. Yet, it is also summed up in the Ten Commandments, whose primary precepts speak of morality in relation to legitimate authority (4), human life (5), sex and family (6 & 9), property rights (7 & 10), truth-telling (8), and religion (1-3). Natural law holds that acts which fulfill these each of these six dimensions of human nature lead to true happiness.

Put another way, behavior that responds to natural human inclination by choosing goods and acts that satisfy our natural ends, leads to fulfillment. Violating human nature, on the other hand, and its intellectual, familial, social, and spiritual components, will always lead to unhappiness.

[For more specific information on this topic, check out Charles Rice's book, 50 Question on the Natural Law.]

Paul is producer and host of Beneath the Surface video and radio podcasts, taught college philosophy & theology, and is a staff writer/producer for St. Michael's Media. Check out his website at Paulmurano.com, and e-mail Paul at PJDM@aol.com.

TV TALK with BILL CUSHING

‘The Chair’

Bill Cushing
VALLEY PATRIOT TV COLUMNIST

Netflix’s new limited dramedy series ‘The Chair’ is the perfect sized binge. Six episodes, each about 30 minutes, loaded with plot and filled with humor. The show is interesting, engaging, and a really fun watch.

‘The Chair’ takes place over a few weeks at the fictional Pembrooke University English Department. Ji-Yoon Kim, played by Sandra Oh, has just been appointed to the position of Chair of the English Department, becoming the first woman of color to attain that position. She has high hopes for what she can achieve in the department, but the Dean (David Morse) has his own agenda. First, he presents her with a list of three aging teachers that she must either fire or convince to retire. Then her choice for the prestigious Distinguished Lecturer position, Yaz McKay (Nana Mensah), the only other woman of color in the department, gets overlooked due to the preferences of a Board member.

If all that wasn’t enough, her best friend, the department’s most popular professor, Bill Dobson (Jay Duplass) gets wrapped up in a scandal that causes both his and Ji-Yoon’s jobs to be in jeopardy. Ji-Yoon realizes she’s inherited a mess. “I feel like someone handed me a ticking time bomb,” she says, “because they wanted to make sure a woman was holding it when it explodes.” It’s a lot of story to be packed into roughly 3 hours of TV, but ‘The Chair’ does a great job at weaving it all together.

The characters in the show are sharply written and feel real and grounded, even as the events surrounding them become more frenzied. Sandra Oh is outstanding as usual, delivering some of her best work. Jay Duplass gives a terrific subtle performance as Bill, a self-destructive man who can barely get out of bed in the morning, let alone defend his values as an educator.

Careers may be at stake, livelihoods threatened, and controversies examined, but the real story here is the relationship between Ji-Yoon and Bill. The scenes that Oh and Duplass share are among the most touching in the series.

The rest of the cast is excellent as well. Holland Taylor Young, and Bob Balaban, playing two of the aging professors do a great job. There’s also a wonderful performance by 7-year-old newcomer Everly Carganilla as Ji-Yoon’s adopted Hispanic daughter JuJu, whose behavior (asking to see the vaginas of strangers, among other things) is the terror of the town babysitters. Watch for a hilarious cameo appearance by David Duchovny playing himself and the terrific scene he and Oh have together.

Written by actress Amanda Peet and Harvard doctoral candidate Annie Wyman, the show is filled with dark humor and is also extraordinarily insightful. The one problem with ‘The Chair’ is that I wish it was a little longer. Maybe 10 episodes so that the show could give a little more time to some of the smaller stories.

If you’re looking for a fun binge, look no further than ‘The Chair.’ It’s being called a limited series, but we know in today’s TV landscape that really doesn’t mean anything. Don’t be surprised if we see a second season down the road, there are definitely more stories to tell here.

‘The Chair’ is available to stream on Netflix.

If you have any questions about TV, you can email me at BillsTVTalk@gmail.com. I will answer all of your questions and will feature some of the questions I receive in a future Mailbag column.

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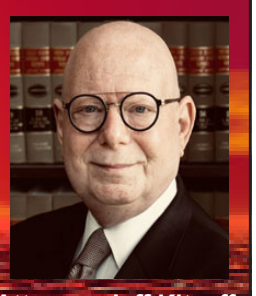
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For Such A Time As This!

Peter Larocque
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

God bless you all in the wonderful name of Jesus! Again, I am reminded of what a blessing it is to be able to write about the magnificent, the spectacular, and wonderfulness of God and His Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit! I am so thankful that God has allowed me this opportunity which I do not take lightly.

Have you ever read the Book of Esther? It's a book full of intrigue and suspense, I believe it will bless you tremendously! Spoiler Alert!!! Please allow me to give you a brief overview. The King of Persia was having a huge elaborate party and he wanted to show off his beautiful Queen, but she refused to come. The result of that decision by the Queen meant that she was no longer the Queen. A decree was sent throughout the land and a search began for a new Queen. [Actually, this was the first-ever episode of the Bachelor]. After 6 months of bathing in special oils and perfumes, these selected ladies had a night with the King. It just so happened that one of the girls was an orphan Jewish girl named Esther who lived in captivity with her uncle, Mordecai. Esther won the beauty contest and was awarded the [rose], I mean the King's favor, and became the Queen.

After the party, the King appointed a new right-hand man named Haman who just so happened to fiercely hate the Jews and plotted and schemed a plan to destroy, kill and steal from the Jews throughout the land. Next, Haman convinces the King to approve the plan and seal it with his signet ring putting the plan into law, making it unreversible! Now keep in mind that all through this time nobody in the King's Palace knows the Queen is a Jewish girl per instructions of her uncle.

Mordecai, the Queen's uncle finds out about the plan against the Jews and gets word to Esther about Haman's plot which brings us to Esther 4:14, "…Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" NKJV. (I need to bring to your attention that throughout the whole Book of Esther, not once is God's name mentioned!!!) But if you got eyes to see and ears to hear you can see God is at work behind the scenes!!! What are the chances that Esther goes from being an orphan Jewish girl to the palace as Queen? What are the chances that she would gain the King's favor? Or did she get to the palace for just a time as this to save her people?

God being sovereign knows what He is doing? Have you ever asked yourself, why are we here alive now and not back in 1812? Could you or I be born now for a reason and a purpose? For such a time as this? If you have eyes to see and ears to hear you must know that the time of Jesus Christ's return is very close! Why does it seem like Jesus is procrastinating? Maybe 2 Peter 3:9, has something to do with it, "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." NKJV.

Just maybe, God is waiting for you or someone in your family, or neighbor or co-worker to accept Jesus as Lord in their life and get saved, born-again? Just maybe God is waiting on us for such a time as this to talk to them about Jesus?

Remember, in the Book of Esther God's name is not mentioned at all! But we know He was at work. Maybe you are going through a similar situation where it seems like God put you on hold and is not listening? But just when you think that you are between a rock and a hard place, God's favor falls on you just like it did for Esther. We look upwards as The Bible tells us in Psalms 121:1-2, "I will lift up my eyes to the hills —From whence comes my help? 2 My help comes from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth." NKJV.

Esther had to decide whether or not to help her people from a total wipe-out, we get to do in essence the same, help those who don't know Jesus and His saving Grace! We can tell them about His love, compassion, and His sacrifice at the Cross for them. How He took our sicknesses and diseases on His body so that by His stripes we all can be healed. He took all our sins, past, present, and future on himself and by the shedding of His blood, we have been forgiven!

Haman in the Book of Esther wanted to steal, kill and destroy the Jews. This sounds familiar, Jesus said in John 10:10, "The thief [the devil] does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I [Jesus] have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." NKJV.

Oh, by the way, Esther stood up for her people and saved them from destruction. We to, get to stand in the gap for our families and friends and tell them that Jesus offers eternal life, a life that can be lived to its fullness now and forever!

Love to all of You!!! God Bless,
Peter Larocque
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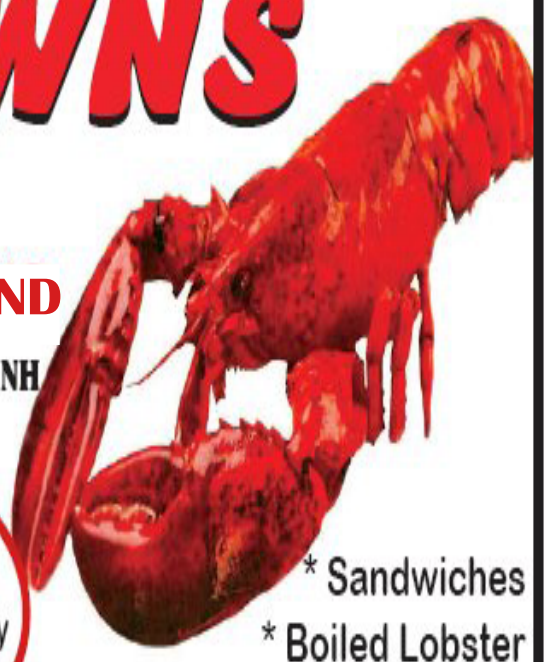

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